NUMB. L.

The SPECTATOR.

Nunquam aliud Natura, aliud Sapientia dixit. JUV.

Friday, April 27. 1711.

WHEN the four *Indian* Kings were in this Country about a Twelve-month ago, I often mix'd with the Rabble and followed them a whole Day together, being wonderfully ſtruck with the Sight of every thing that is new or uncommon. I have, ſince their Departure, employed a Friend to make ſome Enquiries of their Landlord the Upholſterer relating to their Manners and Converſation, as alſo concerning the Remarks which they made in this Country: For next to the forming a right Notion of ſuch Strangers, I ſhould be deſirous of learning what Ideas they have conceived of us.

The Upholſterer finding my Friend very inquiſitive about theſe his Lodgers, brought him ſome time ſince a little Bundle of Papers, which he aſſured him were written by King *Sa Ga Yean Qua Raſh Tow*, and, as he ſuppoſes, left behind by ſome Miſtake. Theſe Papers are now tranſlated, and contain abundance of very odd Obſervations, which I find this little Fraternity of Kings made during their Stay in the Iſle of *Great Britain*. I ſhall preſent my Reader with a ſhort Specimen of them in this Paper, and may perhaps communicate more to him hereafter. In the Article of *London* are the following Words, which without Doubt are meant of the Church of St. *Paul*.

'On the moſt riſing Part of the Town there 'ſtands a huge Houſe, big enough to contain the 'whole Nation of which I am King. Our good 'Brother *E Tow O Koam* King of the *Rivers*, is of 'Opinion it was made by the Hands of that great God 'to whom it is conſecrated. The Kings of *Granajah* 'and of the *Six Nations* believe that it was created 'with the Earth, and produced on the ſame Day 'with the Sun and Moon. But for my own Part, 'by the beſt Information that I could get of this 'Matter, I am apt to think, that this prodigious 'Pile was faſhioned into the Shape it now bears by 'ſeveral Tools and Inſtruments, of which they have 'a wonderful Variety in this Country. It was pro'bably at firſt an huge miſ-ſhapen Rock that grew 'upon the Top of the Hill, which the Natives of 'the Country (after having cut it into a kind of 'regular Figure) bored and hollowed with incre'dible Pains and Induſtry, till they had wrought in 'it all thoſe beautiful Vaults and Caverns into 'which it is divided at this Day. As ſoon as this 'Rock was thus curiouſly ſcooped to their Liking, 'a prodigious Number of Hands muſt have been 'employed in chipping the Outſide of it, which is 'now as ſmooth as poliſhed Marble; and is in ſe'veral Places hewn out into Pillars that ſtand like 'the Trunks of ſo many Trees bound about the Top 'with Garlands of Leaves. It is probable that when 'this great Work was begun, which muſt have been 'many Hundred Years ago, there was ſome Re'ligion among this People; for they give it the 'Name of a Temple, and have a Tradition that it 'was deſigned for Men to pay their Devotions in. 'And indeed, there are ſeveral Reaſons which make 'us think, that the Natives of this Country had for'merly among them ſome ſort of Worſhip; for they 'ſet apart every ſeventh Day as ſacred: But upon my 'going into one of thoſe holy Houſes on that Day, I 'could not obſerve any Circumſtance of Devotion in 'their Behaviour: There was indeed a Man in Black 'who was mounted above the reſt, and ſeemed to 'utter ſomething with a great deal of Vehemence; 'but as for thoſe underneath him, inſtead of paying 'their Worſhip to the Deity of the Place, they were 'moſt of them bowing and curtſying to one another, 'and a conſiderable Number of them faſt aſleep.

'The Queen of the Country appointed two Men 'to attend us, that had enough of our Language to 'make themſelves underſtood in ſome few Particu'lars. But we ſoon perceived theſe two were great 'Enemies to one another, and did not always agree 'in the ſame Story. We could make a Shift to 'gather out of one of them, that this Iſland was 'very much infeſted with a monſtrous Kind of Ani'mals, in the Shape of Men, called *Whigs*; and he 'often told us, that he hoped we ſhould meet with 'none of them in our Way, for that if we did, 'they would be apt to knock us down for being 'Kings.

'Our

‘Our other Interpreter uſed to talk very much of ‘a kind of Animal called a *Tory*, that was as great ‘a Monſter as the *Whig*, and would treat us as ill for ‘being Foreigners. Theſe two Creatures, it ſeems, ‘are born with a ſecret Antipathy to one another, ‘and engage when they meet as naturally as the E‘lephant and the Rhinoceros. But as we ſaw none ‘of either of theſe Species, we are apt to think ‘that our Guides deceived us with Miſrepreſentati‘ons and Fictions, and amuſed us with an Account ‘of ſuch Monſters as are not really in their Coun‘try.

‘Theſe Particulars we made a Shift to pick ‘out from the Diſcourſe of our Interpreters; which ‘we put together as well as we could, being ‘able to underſtand but here and there a Word of ‘what they ſaid, and afterwards making up the ‘Meaning of it among our ſelves. The Men of ‘the Country are very cunning and ingenious in ‘handicraft Works; but withal ſo very idle, that ‘we often ſaw young luſty raw-boned Fellows carri‘ed up and down the Streets in little covered ‘Rooms by a Couple of Porters who are hired for ‘that Service. Their Dreſs is likewiſe very barba‘rous, for they almoſt ſtrangle themſelves about ‘the Neck, and bind their Bodies with many Liga‘tures, that we are apt to think are the Occaſion of ‘ſeveral Diſtempers among them which our Coun‘try is entirely free from. Inſtead of thoſe beauti‘ful Feathers with which we adorn our Heads, ‘they often buy up a monſtrous Buſh of Hair, ‘which covers their Heads, and falls down in a large ‘Fleece below the Middle of their Backs; with ‘which they walk up and down the Streets, and are ‘as proud of it as if it was of their own Growth.

‘We were invited to one of their publick Diver‘ſions, where we hoped to have ſeen the great Men ‘of their Country running down a Stag or pitching ‘a Bar, that we might have diſcover'd who were the ‘Men of the greateſt Perfections in their Country; ‘but inſtead of that, they conveyed us into an ‘huge Room lighted up with abundance of Can‘dles, where this lazy People ſat ſtill above three ‘Hours to ſee ſeveral Feats of Ingenuity performed ‘by others, who it ſeems were paid for it.

‘As for the Women of the Country, not being a‘ble to talk with them, we could only make our ‘Remarks upon them at a Diſtance. They let the ‘Hair of their Heads grow to a great Length; but ‘as the Men make a great Show with Heads of Hair ‘that are none of their own, the Women, who ‘they ſay have very fine Heads of Hair, tie it up in ‘a Knot and cover it from being ſeen. The Wo‘men look like Angels, and would be more beauti‘ful than the Sun, were it not for little black Spots ‘that are apt to break out in their Faces, and ſome‘times riſe in very odd Figures. I have obſerved ‘that thoſe little Blemiſhes wear off very ſoon; but ‘when they diſappear in one Part of the Face, they ‘are very apt to break out in another, inſomuch ‘that I have ſeen a Spot upon the Forehead in the ‘Afternoon, which was upon the Chin in the Morn‘ing.

The Author then proceeds to ſhew the Abſurdity of Breeches and Petticoats, with many other curious Obſervations, which I ſhall reſerve for another Occaſion. I cannot however conclude this Pa‐per without taking Notice, That amidſt theſe wild Remarks there now and then appears ſome‐thing very reaſonable. I can't likewiſe forbear obſerving, That we are all guilty in ſome Mea‐ſure of the ſame narrow Way of Thinking which we meet with in this Abſtract of the *Indian* Journal; when we fancy the Cuſtoms, Dreſſes, and Manners of other Countries are ridiculous and extravagant, if they do not reſemble thoſe of our own.

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